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A true

NARRATIVE

Of the late dreadful

FIRE

Which happened near *Limus* in *Ratcliff*, on *Wednesday* last, being the eighteenth of this Instant *September*, about Five of the Clock in the Morning, and continued till Four in the Afternoon, and burnt down above Forty Houses ere it could be extinguished.

WITH

An Account of two Women which were burnt in their Beds, and several others spoil'd and maim'd during this fatal conflagration.

With Allowance.

LONDON, Printed for *D. M.* 1678.

A true NARRATIVE OF

The late Dreadful Fire which happened near *Limus* in *Ratcliff*, on *Wednesday* last, being the eighteenth of this Instant *September*.

HOW vainly do we propose to our selves to sit quietly and securely under the grateful umbrage of an uninterrupted felicity, if the main design of our Lives and Actions tend not to the attaining of an Eternal Happiness; for it is only in order thereunto that we ought to suffer our selves to enjoy the least satisfaction and content, and every one may truly rate himself most happy by how much the nearer he has attain'd to that end. All other is but Pageantry Peace; 'tis the oderiferous savour of a virtuous Life, and the happy prerogative of a good Conscience, are only permanent; whilest treacherous Riches leave

us in the lurch, by *making themselves wings, and flying away.*

And as a sad and present instance of their transitorineſs or uncertainty, methinks it were a subject worthy our most solemn consideration, to contemplate how many innocent persons, in *Ratcliff* Parish, on *Tuesday* Night last, went quietly to their Chambers, and with their usual hopes of a natural repose, committed their thoughtful Heads to their mollid Pillows, little expecting, that instead of the friendly salutation of the diligent *Bellman*, their repose should be interrupted with that hideous and dismal noise of Fire——Fire——The retrogade jangling of Bells, the rumbling of Engines, the shreeks of the surpris'd, and a thousand other obstreperous Clamours, which went to the composition of that horrid Discord. But what was more material, how little did many of them imagin, who were well to pass before, that next morning they must be forc'd to be the insignificant Spectators of their own ruine.

This ravenous Fire began between four and five of the Clock on *Wednesday* Morning, but by what means, or by whose neglect, is not as yet, even among the Neighbours themselves, positively decided. The general Vogue goes that it began at a Sea-Captains House, and the reasons of this their suspicions are, that the same House, within the space of these two years, had been on Fire two several times before this, to the great danger of all their Neigh-

Neighbours, who ſpeedily came into their aſſiſtance, and found that by reaſon of an ill ſet Furnace thoſe miſchances happened; it being ſurrounded with Boards, which when the Brick and Mortar came to be throughly heated, would be inevitably ſet on Fire, unleſs, by continual powering of cold Water on the ſaid Boards, they induſtriouſly prevented it: And it being certainly known by the Neighbours, that theſe People were either brewing or waſhing on *Tueſday* laſt, ſome People are thereby induc'd to believe it came by that means.

Others there are who verily believe, but by what accident they know not, that the Fire began in a Boatbuilders Yard, which being well furniſhed with dry'd and ſeaſon'd Timber, was more likely to foſter thoſe devouring Flames, which ſo ſurreptitiouſly ſeis'd on the aforeſaid Sea Captains Houſe, that ſome of his Family was burnt, and the reſt of them, as many as the ſhort time allowed to their *Re*ſcuers would permit, were taken down by

Ladders

Ladders, through thoſe Windows which their ſudden ſurprizal would permit them to think of, and the ſtragling Flames would let them come to.

But whatever was the cauſe, diſmal were the effects of this conflagration, which in four hours time, burnt down no leſs than Forty or Fifty Houſes, and very much indanger'd the greateſt part of the adjacent Suburbs, had it not been happily conquer'd by the indefatigable pains and hazzard of a great number of induſtrious Seamen, who very charitably and ſeaſonably proffer'd their aſſiſtance

The firſt Houſe that was ſeen to be on fire was of a ſtrong Brick-building, whoſe ſtubborn Walls contending for ſome time with the prevalent Flames, were thereby heated to that degree, that they were almoſt reduced to the ſame ſubſtance, however ſo nearly related to it, that they ſided with the victorious Element, by adding, if it were poſſible, to its

Native

Native Rigour, and making it more deſtruc-ful than it was before: It was diſcry'd about five of the Clock in the Morning, when the unfortunate Inhabitants were all aſleep, nor could be ſo ſuddenly awaked, but that the Fire had ſeiz'd moſt of the lower Roofs in the Houſe, before any of the Family could find any means to get quit of it: At laſt Ladders came, two or three Servants were drawn out of ſome of the uppermoſt Windows, but juſt as they came to ſave the Miſtreſs of the Houſe, and a Servant Maid which always attended her in her Room, behold to their great grief and aſtoniſhment they ſaw the Floor of that Chamber, and conſequently thoſe two helpleſs Creatures ſinking down into the undermining Flames, where without all poſſibility of help, they ended their unfortunate lives. Alſo an adventurous Boſons Mate, preſuming too far to truſt that devouring Element, was likewiſe intercepted in his return, by a Rafter of a Houſe, which falling on his Head, knock't out his Brains, and left him to undergo the ſame Fate

Divers

Divers Persons were slightly wounded, but none kill'd as we yet hear of, but these two.

Lastly we thought fit, since it is generally reported that great part of *Limus*, *viz*. from the Bridge to *Ratcliff*, was burnt down by the late Fire, to acquaint the Reader that there was not one House in all *Limus* toucht by it, and but only one blown up all the rest were in that lower part of *Ratcliff* Parish, which adjoyns to that of *Limus*.

FINIS.